G. R. S. IX-5]

Previous references.

Preserve
M/N.2.43

File No. 104-18

1918.

Serial Nos. 567

(P.P)

Later references.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. 567

Part B for

SUBJECT.

Conference of directors of Civil Supp at Delhi.

From,

DCS) The J. A. R. No 7698 & 28-1-19.
To for information a copy of letter dated
16-1-19 from the Dy Secy to the Govt of India
Enclosing a copy of the Progs. of the Food Stuffs
Confce held on 15th Oct 1918.

DC7) From, The Food Controller & Director of
Civil Supplies in Mysr.
No 4821 of 7/8-2-19
Returning herewith Progs of the Food Stuffs Confce
held on 15-10-18 after perusal

Dep
7/4

W D 1250—GPB—30,000 - 28-1-19

1918.-19

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

(P.P.)

NOTES.

File No. 104

FILE HEADING.

Conference of Directors of Civil Supplies at Delhi

From The F. A. Resident.

No. 769. Dated 28.1.19 Received 29.1.19.

Diary No. 12704 | Enclos. 2 | Spare Copies. — | Serial No. 5

BRIEF ABSTRACT OF LETTER.

Forwards for info a copy of letter of 14.1.19 from the Secy to the Govt of India enclosing a copy of the proceedings of the Foodstuffs Conference held on 15th Oct 1918.

NOTES AND ORDERS.

Subd for perusal.

HLS
31/1/19

Chamberlayne

Calls for no action.

W/ 31/1/19

Maybee sent to Re F. & D.C.

for perusal & return.

Delivered

NOTES—First Sheet.

GPB—30,000—10-21.

61
1.19.

W/3/2/19

W/ 1/2/19

. R. S. III-2.

12704
15740

2

General and Revenue Secretariat

P V File No. 104 of 1918.

Serial No.

A draft official memorandum is subd.

for. 8/2/1919 Home 11/8/19

6 To

The Rev Comr in Sepve
- Food Controller
- Director Civil Supplies
no. G. 16680-8 dd. 2.19

Fdr the copy of the proceedings
Sec B 2 refd from S- for circulation
and return

7 From the Dy C. S.
no 4821 dd 7/8.3.19
Returns the proceedings after
perusal -
The papers may be filed

Reg
13/3/19

Hm
13.3.19

POLITICAL BRANCH.
14 MAR. 1919

Letter No. 35-F.S., dated the 14th January 1919, from the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue & Agriculture (Foodstuffs Branch), to all Local Governments and Administrations.

--:0:-

I am directed to enclose a summary of the Proceedings of the Delhi Conference of October 15th. Owing to the incompleteness of the record of some of the speeches made thereat it has been thought desirable to exclude from the summary any attempt to reproduce the substance of the remarks made thereat, and the summary thus includes only the remarks of the President and of Mr. Gubbay of which more complete records are available.

---:0:---

"C O P Y"

REGISTRAR.

SECRETARIAT
31 JAN 1919
CRITICAL BRANCH

DIARY NO. 12704

R. O. 178 (a)—R. P. B.—11-1918.—1,000

MYSORE RESIDENT'S OFFICE,

Bangalore, 28th January 1919

No. 769

A copy of the marginally* r is forwarded

*No. 357. S dated 14-1-1919

from the Government of India, Department of Revenue & Agriculture

to the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of H H the Maharaja of Mysore for information in continuation of endorsement from this office No. 616 dated the 23rd January 1919

Yes 2

for First Assistant Resident.

G. R. S. VI—G/32]

4

SUBJECT.....

.....

.....

Diary No. of letter replied to.....

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

( )

, the *191* .

Date of issue 8/2/19.

Signed by M. Hill

Section

File No.

Serial No. 164-18

No. 6686-8 Genl to Rev

Official Memorandum

The accompanying copy of the proceedings of the Foodstuffs Conference held at Delhi on the 15th October 1918 is forwarded with Compliments to the following Officers for purposes of personal and kind return [illegible]

(1) The Revenue Commissioner

(2) The Food Controller

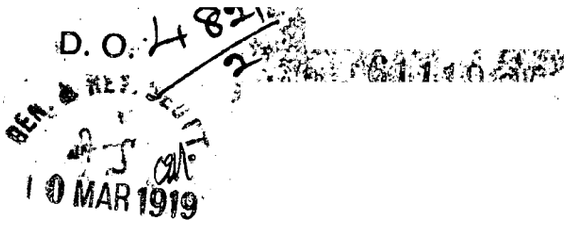
(3) The Director of Civil Supplies

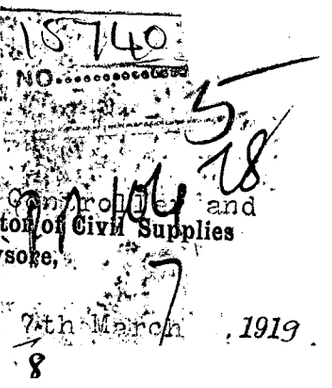
(who will kindly return the copy for this office)

Over.

For Chief Secretary

Circulated among us





Food Controller and
Office of the Director of Civil Supplies
in Mysore,

Bangalore City, Dated, 7th March, *1919*.

Ref

Government of

to the Chief Secretary to the

Food Controller & Director of
Civil Supplies in Mysore

6

Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

General and Revenue Secretariat.

GEN. & REV. SECTT. 10 MAR 1919

No. G 16686-80 / PP. 10418-6 Dated Bangalore, the 6 February 1919.

Official Memorandum

The accompanying copy of the Proceedings of the Food Stuffs Conference held at Delhi on the 15th October 1918 is circulated among the following officers:-

(1) The Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.
(2) The Food Controller,
(3) The Director of Civil Supplies.

(who will kindly return the copy to this office.)

'By Order,'

For Chief Secretary to Government.

TRM/3.

7

Proceedings of the Foodstuffs Conference held at Delhi on the 15th October 1918.

PRESENT.

The Honourable Sir Claude Hill, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., (Chairman).

MEMBERS.

Mr. C. F. Beadel, Director of Civil Supplies, Bengal.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. C. Beadon, I.A., Chief Commissioner, Delhi.

Mr. E. A. H. Blunt, I.C.S., Director of Civil Supplies, United Provinces

Mr. V. H. Boalth, Traffic Manager, North-Western Railway, Lahore.

Brigadier-General Sir Hugh Bray, Kt., Controller of Contracts.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Cameron, C.I.E., R.E., Controller of Traffic.

Mr. J. H. Cox, C.I.E., I.C.S., Director of Civil Supplies, Central India.

Mr. H. Dow, I.C.S., Assistant Director of Civil Supplies, Karachi.

Major-General H. F. E. Freeland, R.E., M.V.O., Member, Railway Board.

Mr. M. M. S. Gubbay, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Finance Department.

Colonel F. W. Hallowes, C.I.E., Director of Farms, Quartermaster-General's Branch.

Mr. H. B. Holmes, V.D., Agent, Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway.

Mr. H. J. Hope, Director of Civil Supplies, Rajputana and Ajmer-Merwara.

Mr. J. Hullah, I.C.S., Deputy Foodstuffs Commissioner for India.

Mr. C. Ismay, (Acting) General Traffic Manager, Bengal-Nagpur Railway, Calcutta.

Mr. C. W. Jacob, I.C.S., Wheat Commissioner for India.

Mr. F. W. Johnston, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Director of Civil Supplies Baluchistan.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Lawrence, C.S.I., I.C.S., Commissioner and Director of Civil Supplies, Sind.

Mr. C. G. Leftwich, I.C.S., Director of Civil Supplies, Central Provinces.

Mr. J. MacKenna, C.I.E., I.C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department.

Mr. G. Milne, I.C.S., Director of Civil Supplies, Bihar and Orissa.

Mr. Mohammed Ali, H. C. S., Director of Civil Supplies, Hyderabad.

Mr. C. M. Pearce, General Traffic Manager, East Indian Railway, Calcutta.

Mr. W. P. Pechey, General Traffic Manager, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, Bombay.

Mr. B. Reade, Deputy Controller of Civil Supplies, Bombay.

Mr. A. C. Rumboll, General Traffic Manager, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, Bombay.

Mr. C. L. Taylor, V.D., Traffic Manager, Oudh and Rohilkhand Rawi lay

Mr. H. P. V. Townend, I.C.S., Bengal.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. A. H. Townsend, I.C.S., Director of Civil Supplies, Punjab.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Waddington, C.I.E., M.V.O., Deputy Chairman and Secretary, Central Transport and Foodstuffs Board.

Major F. C. Waller, I. A. R. O., Director of Civil Supplies, Delhi.

Mr. F. B. Wathen, General Traffic Manager, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.

Mr. R. C. Whitnack, Director of Civil Supplies, Baroda.

Mr. R. B. Wood, I.C.S., Director of Civil Supplies, Madras.

The Conference assembled at 11 A.M., in the Imperial Secretariat.

I.

The Honourable Sir Claude Hill, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., opened the proceedings with the following words :—

"GENTLEMEN,—During the two months which have elapsed since we met at Nagpur, the situation, which at that juncture showed signs of considerable improvement, has unfortunately very greatly deteriorated. The September rains have failed us and the prospects of a later fall of rain in Upper India, upon which so much depends, are not reassuring. We are, therefore, met today, as agreed upon at Nagpur, to review the situation in the light of the actual harvest reaped during the kharif season. This will be our first task, as you will see from the Agenda. I wish, however, before we come to the Agenda, to refer to certain recent developments necessitated by the deterioration of prospects with which we are faced.

It will be remembered that at Nagpur I appealed to the representatives of provincial governments then present to adopt a policy, in their mutual relations regarding foodstuffs, of give and take; realising that the crisis facing us was a crisis involving the whole of India and that only by mutual good-will and understanding could an efficient organisation be developed for the distribution to the best possible advantage of India's available resources. I had hoped that that understanding would have persisted during the interval between then and now. I regret that such has not been the case in all respects and that, no doubt from the best motive, provinces, with a view to safeguarding their own interests, have, either on their own account taken action which was occasionally calculated to prejudice the general well-being of the country, or, in other instances, have submitted proposals which, because of the interests of other provinces, the Government of India felt it incumbent upon them to reject.

I have now, however, a still stronger reason for appealing to all the representatives here present to act in mutual co-operation and with due consideration for the needs of parts of India other than their own. As a consequence of the gravity of the situation due to the failure of the September rains, we have had, most reluctantly, to warn His Majesty's Government that we are unable to undertake the share we have taken hitherto in contributing foodstuffs for the needs of our Allies; and in a recent communiqué we announced that, with the Secretary of State's sanction, exports overseas of wheat, other than for Mesopotamia, would cease. I want, however, to bring home to the minds of this Conference what any curtailment of our assistance to the cause of the Allies means. It means that we are withdrawing the contribution we have hitherto been able to make in respect of part of the sinews of war; and to that extent India will be diminishing her war effort. I am sure that every member of the Conference will share with the Government of India the feeling that such a withdrawal is only justifiable upon the very gravest necessity. In that assurance I also deduce the conclusion that every member of the Conference will go one step further with me and agree that it is up to every province in India to verify with such close scrutiny and accuracy the returns of their stocks

and requirements that there shall be no risk hereafter of the discovery that, through neglect of such precaution, any province has occasioned, without sufficient justification, the withdrawal of India from her position of food contributor to the Allied cause.

As the result of the failure of the monsoon and the increasing difficulty experienced by some provinces under present arrangements in distributing the available foodstuffs to the areas needing them, the Government of India, a few days ago, came to the conclusion that it was necessary to appoint a Foodstuffs Commissioner for the whole of India. In adopting this course, the Government of India have followed, I believe, fairly closely, the developments that have taken place in European countries where advisory committees have eventually given place to a Food Controller. You have no doubt all seen the Resolution in which the announcement was made and the powers which it has been decided to confer upon the Foodstuffs Commissioner and we shall come, in the course of our Agenda, to a consideration of the subject and to a discussion on any questions regarding which there may be room for misunderstanding or doubt. We have been fortunate to secure for the post of Food Commissioner the services of Mr. Gubbay, who has been able to come here and help us in our discussions today. Before the publication of the Resolution, Local Governments were informed by telegraph of the substance of the Resolution in order that they might be in a position immediately on its issue to cooperate in giving effect to the scheme. In the view of the Government of India, it is in this critical stage necessary that, in the working of the scheme for food control, the fullest discretion and widest powers possible should be given to the Foodstuffs Commissioner, subject to general control regarding policy by the Government of India, while in the interest of the provinces themselves, the most accurate possible information should be placed at his disposal by them.

The information which we hope the members of this Conference will be able to give us as to the situation in their respective provinces in regard to food stocks and food requirements will be an essential preliminary to enable the Foodstuffs Commissioner to arrange for the adequate distribution of foodstuffs to the different provinces requiring them. The difficulties which have been experienced hitherto have been due in part to uncertainty regarding data, in part to difficulties of supplying freight, and in part also to conflicting endeavours and conflicting action taken by Directors of Civil Supplies in different provinces. The last factor has become one of such importance and indeed of gravity that it is absolutely essential to bring the operations of provincial Directors of Civil Supplies, in reference to their powers connected with the issue of priority certificates, within some sort of centralised control.

In conclusion, I ought perhaps to draw your attention to the last paragraph of our Resolution, in which we have stated that, pending the assumption of his duties by Mr. Gubbay, steps are being taken to give such immediate effect as is possible to the scheme formulated in the Resolution.

We have secured the services of Mr. Hullah of the Central Provinces as Deputy Foodstuffs Commissioner, who is present and will assume charge today of those duties. It is, therefore, of the greatest importance that, after we have finished our general discussions today, you Directors of Civil Supplies should take the fullest advantage of Mr. Gubbay's presence here to get the question of your relations to the Foodstuffs Commissioner as clear as possible, so that the policy enunciated in the Resolution may be brought into effect without delay and, as far as possible, without friction or misunderstanding."

II

The Conference then proceeded to discuss the first two items of the Agenda which it was found convenient to take together, *viz.*

1. To consider the economic situation in the light of the statements to be furnished by all Directors of Civil Supplies, showing their Provincial stocks.

2. To record a forecast of requirements—

(*a*) Up to January 1919.

(*b*) Up to April 1919.

Explanatory statements with reference to the above paragraphs were then verbally made by the Directors of Civil Supplies.

III.

Mr. MacKenna then moved the following resolution :—

" This Conference recognises the necessity of conserving the food-grain and fodder supplies of India with a view to meeting her military obligations and commitments and in the interests of the people of India. Pending the receipt of accurate data as to the rice crops of Burma, Bengal, Madras and Bihar and Orissa, it is imperative for the framing of a forecast that the stocks available from the present kharif harvest should be accurately estimated forthwith by all local Governments.

This Conference therefore desires to impress on all provincial Governments that in their view this question is *the* most important one for all district officers and that these officers should be informed of the absolute necessity of securing immediately as exact an estimate as possible of existing stocks and of the actual outturn of the *kharif* harvests in each district.

The Conference suggests that the Provincial Governments should, wherever necessary, resort to the Commerce Ordinances for securing the disclosure of stocks.

The Conference trusts that they will have the cordial co-operation of Native States in the action contemplated by this Resolution."

IV.

The Conference then took up the items 3, 4 and 5 of the agenda,—

3. To record the decision of the Government of India to appoint a Foodstuffs Commissioner and to consider suggestions regarding the arrangements for correlating his functions with those of the Provincial authorities.

4. To consider what information can be furnished by railways to Directors of Civil Supplies and the form in which such should be supplied.

5. To refer consideration of the fodder requirements of Rajputana and other importing areas to a Sub-Committee presided over by Colonel Waddington.

The Chairman announced the decision of the Government of India to appoint a Foodstuffs Commissioner and generally explained his functions as set forth in the Resolution of the Government of India which forms Appendix B.—

V.

The following Resolution was then unanimously adopted :—

Resolution.

That this Conference cordially welcomes the appointment of a Foodstuffs Commissioner as described in the Resolution of the Government of India, and the members of the Conference desire to express their readiness to cooperate with the Footstuffs Commissioner in every way.

VI

The Chairman then appointed two Sub-Committees, the first under the Chairmanship of Mr. Gubbay to consider suggestions for correlating the functions of the Foodstuffs Commissioner with those of the provincial authorities including item 4 of the agenda, and the second with Colonel Waddington as Chairman to consider the fodder requirements of importing areas.

The Conference adjourned until 5 P.M.

VII.

The Conference re-assembled at 5 P.M. when Mr. Gubbay made the following statement :—

I am afraid there has been no time to throw the results of our discussions into the form of formal Resolutions and very likely both in this respect as also on minor points we shall need, on further consideration, to make small amendments so as to make the procedure we propose acceptable to the authorities to whom they will have to be submitted.

We first discussed the Resolution appointing a Foodstuffs Commissioner and we then passed on to the question of control over exports from the provinces which might be expected to have a surplus. We were advised by Colonel Cameron that there would be no difficulty in arranging for a *general* order of priority to be given to railways to carry any food-grains purchased on behalf of the Foodstuffs Commissioner by firms selected by him and consigned either to an agent nominated by a Director of Civil Supplies or consigned to any qualified military authority or to any Director of Civil Supplies. Since we came to this agreement General Freeland has pointed out that conceivably at the bigger ports, particularly at Karachi and Bombay, it might be advantageous, in order to save delay in turning wagons round, to arrange that the consignee should be a branch of the firm who had purchased the wheat apparently for the Foodstuffs Commissioner. I think that, if we leave the question at this particular point for further subsequent discussion with Colonel Cameron and General Freeland, we shall have no difficulty in arriving at a suitable settlement as to the consignee who should be shown on the railway receipt. Similarly, Mr. Jacob brought to notice that it would be advisable to show in the case of railway receipts for such goods that they are being consigned on behalf of the Foodstuffs Commissioner.

We then passed to the question of movements within the provinces and on that point our feeling was that we should recommend the following procedure, *viz.*:—

> That within a province no movements of such foodstuffs, as may be specified from time to time, should be allowed except on a certificate from the Director of Civil Supplies subject to any special arrangements arrived at either generally or in individual cases by the Director of Civil Supplies in agreement with the railway authorities and the Controllers of Despatches.

This latter qualification is necessary to meet a number of special individual cases which were mentioned to us and we also recognized, that special arrangements might conceivably become necessary in regard to goods passing between border-districts of different provinces. For instance, Mr. Beadel mentioned the case of the colliery districts, I think Mr. Milne also referred to the case of the requirements of Messrs. Tata's Iron and Steel concern at Sakchi and I also think that a reference was made to the requirements of the Kolar gold fields though in respect of these particular requirements Mr. Wood rather thought that it might be easy for him, or possible at any rate, to arrange for the indents of the gold mines to be included in his requirements. Well, of course, we realise that some elasticity is inevitable and probably desirable in regard to the procedure which is to regulate movements of foodstuffs between one province and another and from one district to another in the same province; but, subject to these exceptional cases, we do not anticipate that the procedure we proposed will need any amendment in principle when we come to apply it. Of course I ought to add that we recognise that the approval of the Communications Board would in any case be necessary before orders could issue.

We then passed to paragraph 4 of the agenda of to-day's business which was referred to our sub-committee, *i.e.*, the question of what information is required by Directors of Civil Supplies from railways and the form in which it should be furnished. Well, Sir, on that point we were not quite certain what causes exactly led to this particular point being brought on to the Agenda of to-day's business, but, generally speaking the feeling was that, to begin with, the position had been somewhat modified by the recent announcement of the appointment of a Foodstuffs Commissioner, and in any case we thought that it was a matter for each Director of Civil Supplies to settle with the railway authorities concerned, so that any information that he might require might be specifically mentioned to the railway authorities and obtained from them. Thus, for instance, we were told that one railway had received from one Director of Civil Supplies a list of 23 commodities in regard to which the Director of Civil Supplies wished to obtain

movements of traffic and in another case a list of 8 commodities had been stated to another railway authority. It appeared to us that we could not in any case devise any general form in which such information which a Director of Civil Supplies might require should be cast and that the better plan would be to leave the point for settlement between the Director of Civil Supplies and the particular railway concerned.

I then proceeded to explain the intentions of the Government of India regarding the fixation of prices. I explained to the sub-committee that the considerations which previously had caused the Government of India to feel some hesitation and reluctance about ordering or authorising a general fixation of prices did not now obtain to the same extent now that it was proposed to control to some extent the inter-provincial movements of foodstuffs and that the first step in the Government of India's policy was to endeavour to fix prices indirectly, *viz.*, through the system of licensing which is referred to in the Resolution appointing a Foodstuffs Commissioner. I explained that the Government of India recognised that the next step might conceivably be that we should find ourselves under the necessity of commandeering stocks and on this point Mr. Lawrence suggested that the Government of India might be moved to make an amendment of the existing Rule under the Defence of India Rules so as to give Local Governments discretion to delegate to an official, who would naturally be an official who possessed their full confidence, the right of commendeering stocks and of fixing prices. I think that Mr. Lawrence represented that this was a matter of some urgency and the question will be one which I hope to be able to put before the Government of India with definite proposals and suggestions without any delay.

* * * * *

I then asked the Directors of Civil Supplies and they agreed, to send me by the end of this month their indents for wheat and rice for November and a forecast of their requirements for December and January. Without, of course, committing myself definitely to this procedure, I imagine that eventually we shall settle down to some method whereby by the end of each month the immediate requirements for the next month and a forecast for the following two months will regularly be intimated. On this basis it will be possible for me to submit to the Government of India a statement of the requirements of the various provinces, and assuming that we get, as a result of the Resolution which was passed at this morning's Conference, more complete data regarding the stocks held in the provinces, it will then be for the Government of India to decide how such surplus stocks should be allocated between the various indenting provinces. The question was raised whether in making the forecast an allowance should be stated for maintaining one month's supply in stock. On that point I agreed that the requirements should of course make such an allowance but that it should be specifically and separately stated so that the Government of India should be in a position to test how far the indent was a reasonable one and to what extent it could be curtailed or deferred.

The question was then raised what standard should be taken in estimating these requirements, and, after some discussion, as a provisional basis, it was agreed that the standard should be (inclusive of seed) one-fifth of a ton per head per year.

I ought to have mentioned at the beginning of my remarks a point which was raised by Mr. Beadel and to which I think I gave him a satisfactory answer, *viz.*, with reference to the Resolution passed at this morning's conference regarding the obtaining of complete data of stocks, Mr. Beadel pointed out, if it went to the Local Governments with the authority of the Government of India behind it, it would probably receive more careful consideration. I think the reply to that is that naturally the Conference makes recommendations to the Government of India and that it would be for them to address the Local Governments on the points emerging from to-day's proceedings.

The Hon'ble Sir ClaudeHill: Gentlemen, after the very clear statement of the deliberations of the sub-co mmittee which we have heard from Mr. Gubbay, I suggest that the best undertaking we can give regarding the proceedings of that

sub-committee will be that the resolutions together with those proceedings, including Mr. Gubbay's explanatory remarks, shall be communicated as soon as possible, without waiting for the orders of the Government of India, to all members of this Conference, and in the meantime, unless any member has any comment to make or any explanation to give in regard to Mr. Gubbay's remarks, that we should merely, as a conference, record our agreement in the conclusions arrived at, as explained by Mr. Gubbay.

A discussion* about prices followed, after which the Conference agreed to the following Resolution :—

* Separate Memorandum.

Resolution.

That this Conference endorses the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee on Foodstuffs in the light of the explanations given by Mr. Gubbay.

VIII.

The President then read out the Report† of the Sub-Committee appointed to consider the fodder requirements and continued : In regard to this Report of the Sub-Committee which I think the Conference will be prepared to adopt, including all their recommendations, I would suggest for the consideration of the Conference that we should add to the Resolution passed this morning in regard to foodstuffs the words " and fodder " in the appropriate place. I think that an examination similar to that which we recommended in the case of foodstuffs in regard to the stocks of hay and *bhoosa* will very likely disclose that the reserves are not ordinarily drawn upon and do not ordinarily come to light, and if the Conference is prepared to agree to that amendment, I will see that those words are inserted in an appropriate place. I should like to move this amendment before coming to the Report itself.

† Appendix C.

The amendment was agreed to.

The President:—I should be glad if Mr. Blunt could, before we adopt the Report, give the Conference his impressions as to the possibility of discovering a larger supply of *bhoosa* and of grass in the United Provinces than has as yet been disclosed. The Conference would, I think, be glad to know if any special measures have been taken to inquire into the matter.

Mr. Blunt said that as far as he knew the import of grass was estimated by the Forest Department at 2 million maunds and that was the figure which was actually given at the last two famines. He doubted if there was any more grass. As regards *bhoosa*, he would certainly be surprised to hear that there was no more *bhoosa* left.

The following Resolution was recorded :—

Resolution.

That the report ‡ be adopted.

‡Appendix C.

IX.

The President :—I now come to the combined statement representing in the aggregate the results of the statements put in by the Directors of Civil Supplies showing the surplus stocks and requirements up to January 1919. I will not go in detail into the figures which constitute the aggregate, but the result is that there is a net deficit of 229,460 tons under the heading of all food grains. Now in regard to that matter I think, after this morning's discussion it will be generally agreed that the actual figures require modification. We had for example in Mr. Reade's figures the admission that, while stocks were taken into account, they are not taken into account to the extent which was contemplated when the idea of drawing up this three months' statement was formulated, inasmuch as the stock statements showed in the case at least of one district which we investigated the existence of six months' stocks in the district and against that same

district there was a demand of an amount constituting about 3 months' supply. Therefore, I think that the Bombay figures and probably other figures based on the same kind of data will show that there is a very considerable excess in the stated demand over the actuals of the situation. We hope that a closer investigation of the stock situation will show that this 229,000 tons deficit is probably an overstatement of the case, and this probability emphasises the necessity, upon which Mr. Gubbay laid stress, for having a forecast for all the different provinces at short intervals in order to enable him to assess what should be the distribution. If he had to act upon a statement based on today's information unverified Mr. Gubbay would be confronted apparently with the necessity for despatching again to the Bombay Presidency during the next 3 months 588,800 tons in the aggregate from the surplus provinces when we have reason to believe, in view of the investigation of the figures, that that 588,800 tons is in excess of the demand by an amount which is represented by the excess stocks which have not been set off against the needs during the next 3 months. This statement, however, will be printed and circulated, and I propose, when it is circulated for the information of Local Governments, specially to draw attention to what I have just said.

I do not think there is any other business before the Conference. I am very grateful, and I am sure Mr. Gubbay is too, to you all for your assistance in our deliberations, and I hope that they will bear fruit in many directions, primarily, if I may say so, coupled with the appointment of a Foodstuffs Commissioner, in co-ordinating inter-provincial effort in a way in which it has not been co-ordinated hitherto, and, secondly, in inculcating throughout India the deep responsibility which attaches to all of us to see that, while our requirements are met from stocks as far as possible, we do not hold up more than we actually require. Those are the fundamental points, and the latter is the one which I think there is greater need for emphasising than any other. The proceedings of this meeting will be communicated as rapidly as possible to all members of the Conference and the orders of the Government of India and the initiation of work by the Foodstuffs Commissioner will, I can assure members of the Conference, be undertaken without any unnecessary delay—we hope perhaps in the course of the next week.

APPENDIX A

Statement I.

SURPLUS STOCKS AND REQUIREMENTS.

November 1918 to January 1919.

Name of Province.	Surplus, if any, available for export.						Amount required to be imported.						Remarks.
	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram and pulse.	Bajra and juar.	Other food-grains.	Total.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram and pulse.	Bajra and juar.	Other food-grains.	Total.	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	
Madras	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81,000	10,000	...	3,250*	94,250	*Flour.
Hyderabad	...	...	5,500	...	...	5,500	13,200	26,500	6,600	13,200	16,500	76,000	
Bombay	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,88,800	
Bengal	...	2,40,000	...	...	...	2,40,000	50,000	...	54,000	...	...	1,04,600	
Bihar and Orissa	...	...	10,000	...	...	10,000	3,500	3,000	...	1,000	16,000	50,500	
United Provinces	51,000	...	57,000	...	...	1,08,000	...	1,20,000	...	33,000	86,000	2,39,000	
Punjab	4,00,000	...	2,50,000	...	...	6,50,000	...	5,000†	...	...	...	5,000	†Required but not absolutely necessary.
Burma	...	2,50,000	...	...	...	2,50,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Assam	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Central Provinces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44,000	...	...	...	44,000	
North-West Frontier Province	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44,400	
Baluchistan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	500	500	...	1,000	
Rajputana including Ajmer-Merwara	...	...	...	...	...	...	48,000	7,900	6,700	...	30,200	92,800	
Central India	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,300	12,100	18,800	11,400	11,400	70,000	
Mysore	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,750	
Baroda	...	...	...	...	...	...	20,207	24,909	5,511	4,483	...	55,110	
Sind	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,000	...	7,000	...	...	9,000	
Delhi	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,200	350	...	...	1,800	9,350	
Total	4,51,000	4,90,000	3,22,500	...	...	12,63,500	5,20,407	3,51,759	1,09,111	63,583	1,65,150	14,92,960	

All foodgrains—Deficit 229,460 tons.

C739 TFB

160,407

APPENDIX A.

Statement II.

SURPLUS STOCKS AND REQUIREMENTS.

November 1918 to April 1919.

Name of Province.	Surplus, if any, available for export.						Amount required to be imported.						Remarks.
	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram and pulse.	Bajra and juar.	Other food-grains.	Total.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram and pulse.	Bajra and juar.	Other food-grains.	Total.	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	
Madras	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	111,000	50,000	...	*6,500	167,500	*Flour.
Hyderabad	...	...	7,400	...	7,400	14,800	15,400	6,800	15,400	7,700	23,200	123,500	
Bombay	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	1,028,500	
Bengal	...	240,000	...	...	...	†240,000	100,000	...	108,000	...	...	208,000	†Does not include winter harvest.
Bihar and Orissa	...	...	20,000	...	...	20,000	7,000	60,000	...	2,000	32,000	101,000	
United Provinces	85,000	...	106,500	...	...	191,500	...	217,000	...	51,500	158,000	426,500	
Punjab	400,000	...	250,000	...	...	650,000	...	5,000	...	...	...	5,000	If possible.
Burma	...	230,000	...	...	...	230,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Assam	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Central Provinces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88,000	...	...	...	88,000	
North-West Frontier Province	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88,000	
Baluchistan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,000	1,000	...	2,000	
Rajputana including Ajmer-Merwara	...	...	...	...	...	...	100,000	15,500	13,500	...	57,400	186,400	
Central India	...	...	...	...	...	...	33,600	25,600	36,600	18,900	20,200	134,900	
Mysore	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,500	
Baroda	...	...	...	...	...	...	40,414	49,818	11,022	8,966	...	110,220	
Sind	...	...	...	...	...	...	50,000	...	16,000	56,000	...	122,000	
Delhi	...	...	...	...	...	...	23,400	1,970	...	...	4,800	30,170	
Total ...	485,000	490,000	376,500	...	7,400	1,366,300	369,814	635,688	251,522	146,066	302,100	2,841,990	

All foodgrains ... Deficit ... 1,475,690 tons.

Appendix B.

No. 996.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

AGRICULTURE.

Simla, the 11th October, 1918.

RESOLUTION.

ıe Government of India have decided to discontinue further purchases ıt for export overseas other than (1) wheat which is absolutely necessary _ _ itary and Government account and (2) supplies to Mesopotamia ; and hey have under consideration the question of reducing these commitments. The Government of India further propose to exercise closer control over the xport of all other kinds of food grains. These decisions, which have been taken n order to conserve for use in the deficit provinces in India such supplies of vheat and other foodstuffs as are not immediately required for local consumption n those provinces which have a surplus, are now to be supplemented by further neasures designed to secure the most effective distribution to deficit provinces ıf the supplies of wheat, rice and subsequently of other foodstuffs, which ıre not required for local consumption in the surplus provinces. For this ɔurpose the Government of India propose to set up a single executive authority, vorking directly under them, to be designated the Foodstuffs Commissioner. When the Government of India have, after consultation with the various Provincial Governments, decided what quantities of foodstuffs are available 'or transfer from time to time from surplus to deficit provinces, and the maxinum prices at which such foodstuffs should be purchased, the Foodstuffs Commissioner will arrange, through the Agency of selected commercial firms, for he purchase of the foodstuffs in question and their despatch to the destinations ınd consignees indicated by the Directors of Civil Supplies in the deficit ɔrovinces.

2. Initially the operations of the Foodstuffs Commissioner will be directed o the question of supplies of wheat and rice, in respect of which there are ılready in full working order the two agencies represented by the Wheat Commissioner, whose headquarters are in Karachi, and the Rice Commissioner n Burma. These two agencies will continue to work, generally speaking, ın their present lines as regards purchases of wheat and rice, and will in ıddition exercise such other functions as may be allotted to them by the Foodstuffs Commissioner to whom they will in future be subordinate.

3. It will be a primary condition of supplies to dealers in deficit provinces hat they should be licensed by the Director of Civil Supplies, or other local authority, and that the grant and continuance of such licenses shall be conditional on the holder selling within such prices as the Local Government may fix, with due regard to the prices previously fixed for purchases by the Foodstuffs Commissioner. It will also be within the discretion of Local Governments, if they think this necessary, to arrange for the opening of Government and municipal depots or shops for the sale of foodstuffs at fixed prices.

4. Under this scheme it is contemplated that licenses for the export of wheat and rice, and subsequently of other foodstuffs shall not be granted by the Director of Civil Supplies of any surplus province save in respect of purchases made through the Foodstuffs Commissioner; nor shall the Director of Civil Supplies in any deficit province issue licenses for import in respect of articles under the control of the Foodstuffs Commissioner to a larger aggregate amount than the total quantity of such articles allotted by the Government of India for import into such province.

5. The essence of this scheme is inter-provincial allotment, the fixing and control of the quantities to be supplied by surplus to deficit provinces, the control within each province of arrangements for distribution and sale and the appointment of a Foodstuffs Commissioner as an essential link between Local Governments and the Government of India and as the authority to arrange for the purchase and despatch of foodstuffs from one province to another.

6. The Foodstuffs Commissioner will enter on his functions at the beginning of November, and the Governor General in Council has selected for this post Mr. M. M. S. Gubbay, C.S.I., C.I.E., by reason of his financial experience and ability, and his successful management of the somewhat analogous Wheat Scheme of 1915-16. Pending the assumption of his duties by Mr. Gubbay, steps are being taken to give such immediate effect as is possible to the scheme formulated in this Resolution.

ORDERED that a copy of this Resolution be communicated to all Local Governments and Administrations; to the Agent to the Governor General in Central India; to the several Departments of the Government of India; to the Wheat Commissioner for India; to the Rice Commissioner in Burma; to the Secretary to the Central Transport and Foodstuffs Board; to the Secretary to the Communications Board; to the Publicity Board; to the Controller of Traffic; and to Mr. M. M. S. Gubbay, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.

ORDERED also that the Resolution be published in the Supplement to the *Gazette of India* for general information.

J. MACKENNA,

Offg. Secretary to the Government of India.

APPENDIX C.

Report of the Sub-Committee appointed to consider the fodder requirements of importing areas.

PRESENT.

COLONEL F. W. HALLOWES, C.I.E.
A. C. RUMBOLL, ESQ.
H. J. HOPE, ESQ.
H. DOW, ESQ.
A. H. BLUNT, ESQ.
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL C. W. WADDINGTON, C.I.E., M.V.O.

The present demands for fodder are estimated as follows :— (in tons).

Bombay Deccan	18,000
,, Kathiawar	9,000
Baroda	250
Central India	3,600
Rajputana	8,500
Total ...	39,350

In addition to the above Sindh requires 10,000 tons to relieve the situation at Karachi, where the military authorities have depleted local stocks to feed 25,000 mules from South America. This makes a total demand of 49,350 tons. Baroda also expects to require a considerable quantity, but cannot give exact figures or guarantee purchasers at the price.

To meet these demands Colonel Hallowes on behalf of the Quartermaster-General is prepared to recognise the Sindh requirement of 10,000 tons as a military requirement, and in addition to supply 22,000 tons, which it is proposed to allot as follows :—

Sindh	10,000 tons	(to be railed from Bhusaval).
Bombay Deccan	9,000 ,,	(,, ,, ,, Manmad).
,, Kathiawar ...	4,500 ,,	(,, ,, ,, Manmad).
Central India ...	3,600 ,,	(,, ,, ,, Harpalpur).
Rajputana ...	4,650 ,,	(,, ,, ,, Khandwa and Udaighar.)
Baroda	250 ,,	(already exported).
	32,000	

It is suggested that if these allotments are not drawn upon by the end of December, they will be reallotted to meet the needs of other areas. This leaves a deficit of 17,350 tons required immediately.

As regards other sources of supply, Mr. Blunt stated that arrangements are being made in the United Provinces to cut and bale the forest grass, primarily for home consumption, estimated at 73,500 tons. It is possible that some may be spared for export later on in the event of rain to increase the ordinary pasturage. Colonel Hallowes considers it probable that some *bhusa* is available in the Eastern part of the United Provinces which should be collected and baled at once. Mr. Blunt undertook to make enquiries on this point. Colonel Hallowes added that any *bhusa* that could be given him by the United Provinces Government would enable him to release a corresponding quantity of hay for civil needs.

It is understood that the Central Provinces cannot work up to more than the total of 100,000 tons which they have undertaken to cut and bale for the military authorities.

It is thus apparent that there are no visible sources of supply beyond those already mentioned. The Sub-Committee would urge the necessity of asking the military authorities to review their fodder position from time to time with a view to releasing if possible a larger quantity for civil needs, and also suggest that Local Governments which normally have grass and [illegible] asked to exploit such areas to the fullest extent.

C780TFB—500—30-12-18—GCPS